
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5148 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING SKI SAFETY.

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the safety checks and duties that operators of certain passenger tramways (aerial chair lifts) or ski areas must perform.

It requires the operators to (1) ensure that passenger tramways are equipped with restraint devices, which the bill defines as a restraining bar that does not yield to a skier's forward pressure, and (2) conspicuously post, at the tramway entrance, instructions on the proper use of the devices and notice that the law requires their use. It requires tramway riders to close the restraint device, except when embarking or disembarking. The passenger tramways to which the bill applies are lifts that carry passengers on chairs suspended in the air and attached to a moving cable, chain, or link belt supported by trestles or towers with one or more spans, or similar devices.

The bill requires operators to ensure that any lift tower on a ski trail or slope is padded or otherwise protected, instead of conspicuously marking the ones not readily visible. It (1) allows them to pad snowmaking devices on ski trails and slopes, as an alternative to marking their location; (2) specifies that the marker must be a portable fence or similar device; and (3) specifies the areas on ski slopes where snowmaking equipment padding or marking is required. These are designated slopes, trails, or areas the operator approves and opens for skiing and grooms regularly as part of normal maintenance activities.

The bill also makes minor technical changes.

*House Amendment "A" limits the bill to chair lifts and excludes aerial cars included in the original file.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/04/2014)